

FIG. 1

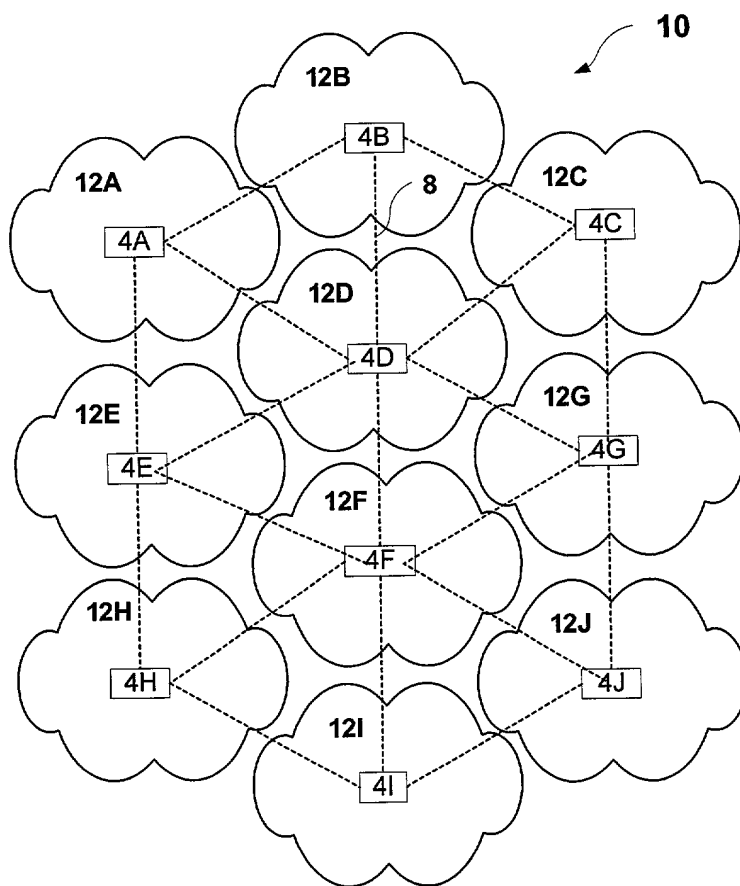


FIG. 2

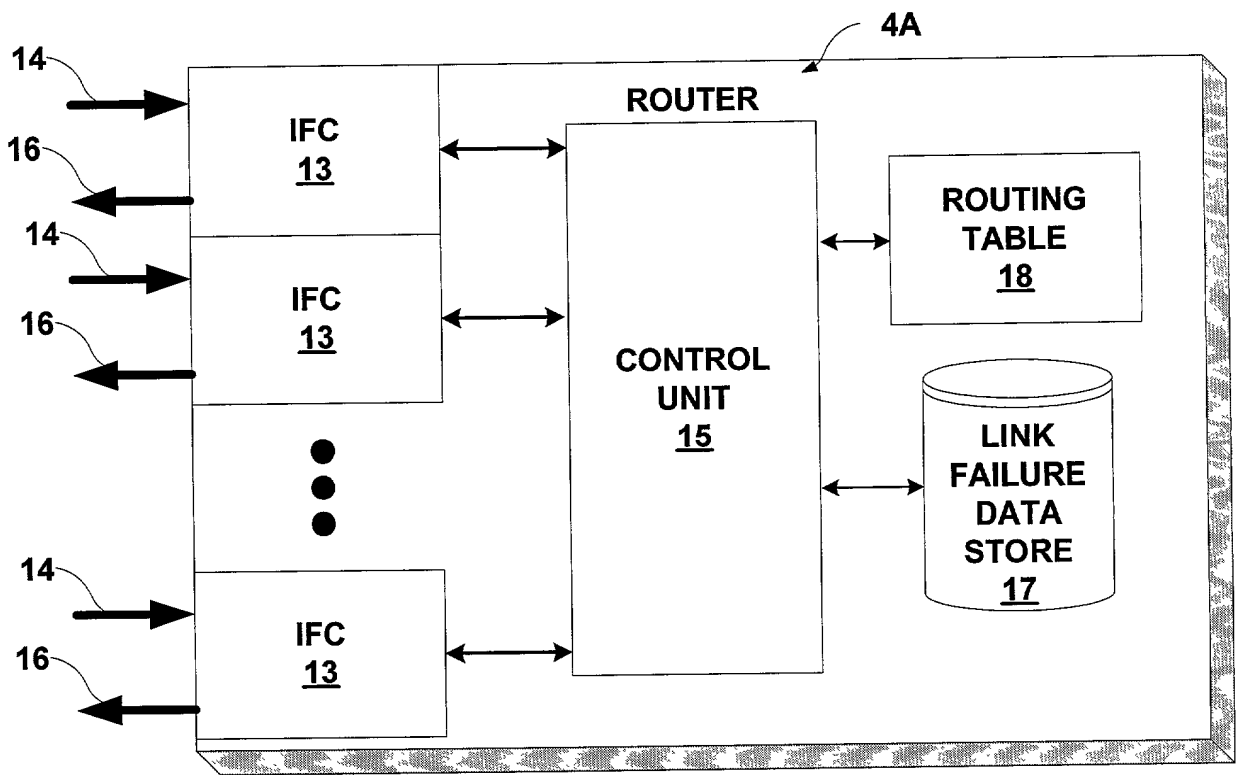


FIG. 3

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a data structure 20, which may be a packet or a frame, according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. The data structure 20 includes an origin ID field 22, an instance ID field 24, a timestamp field 26, a link descriptor field 28, a time valid field 30, a time store field 32, and a security data field 34.

20

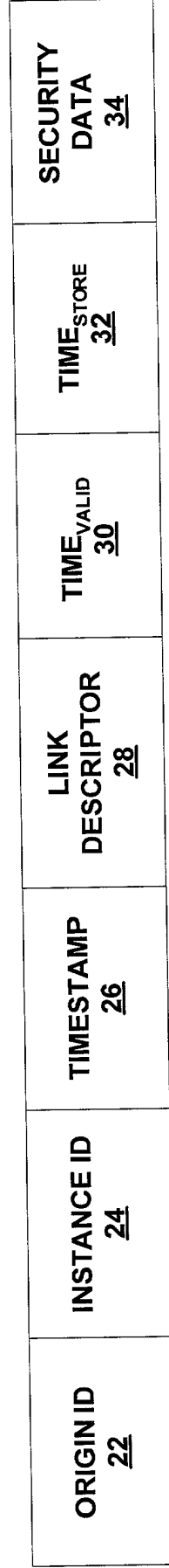


FIG. 4

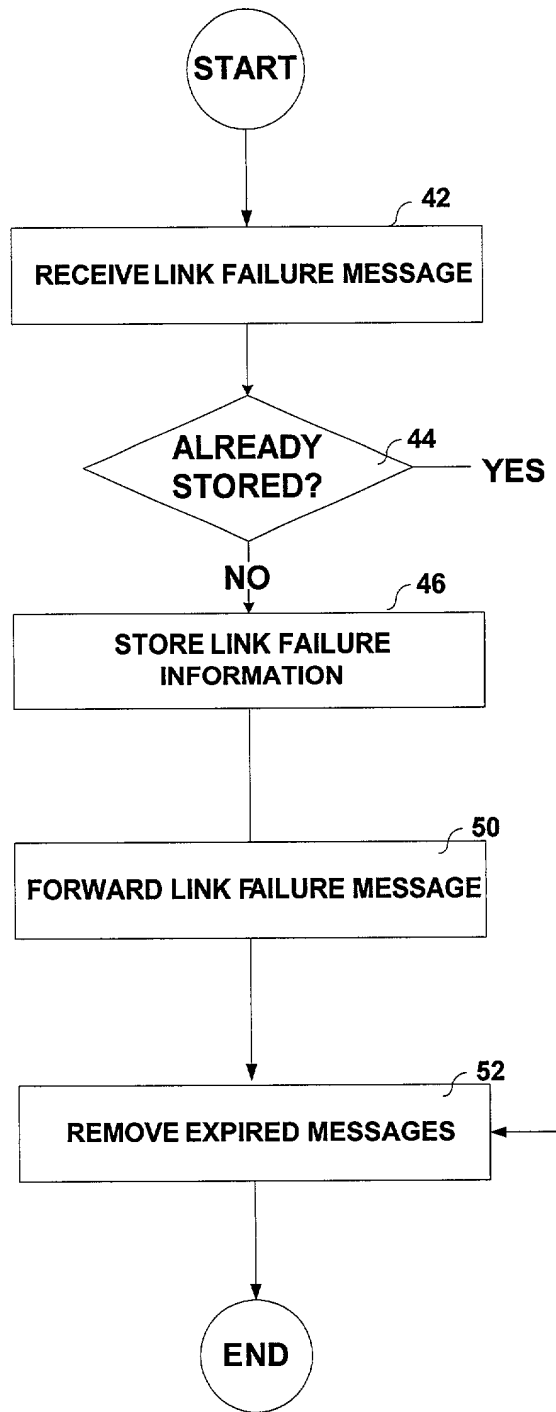


FIG. 5

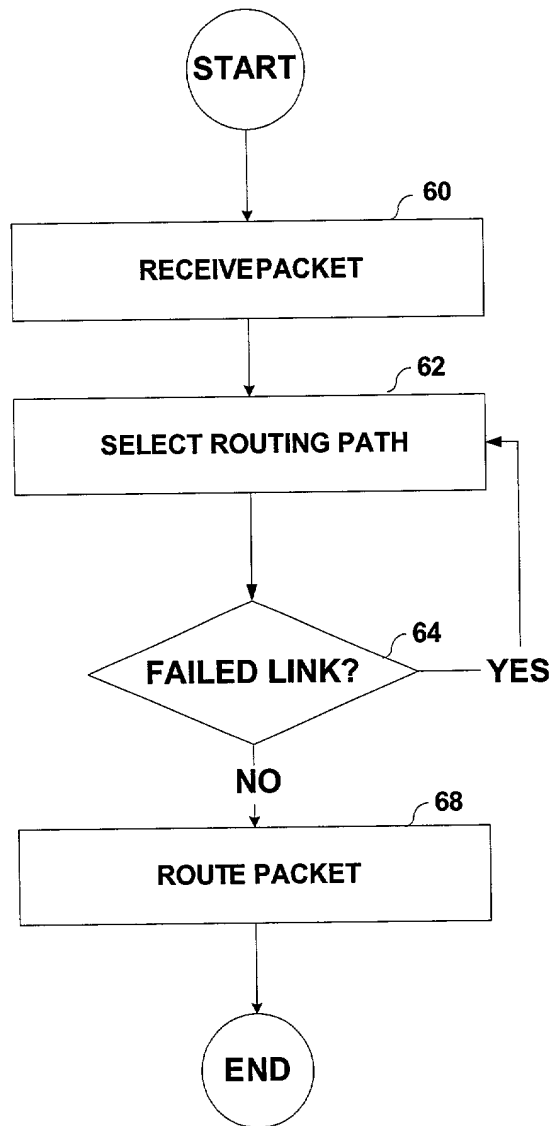


FIG. 6

FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram of a network architecture 70. The network architecture 70 includes three main components: 72A, 72B, and 72C. Component 72A is a cloud containing sub-components 12A, 12B, and 12D. Component 72B is a cloud containing sub-components 12E, 12F, 12H, 12I, and 12J. Component 72C is a cloud containing sub-components 12C and 12G. Each sub-component is represented by a cloud shape and contains a small square icon with the number 4. Dashed lines indicate connections between the sub-components. Specifically, dashed lines connect 12A to 12B and 12D; 12B to 12D; 12D to 12C; 12C to 12G; 12G to 12F; 12F to 12E, 12H, 12I, and 12J; 12E to 12H; 12H to 12I; 12I to 12J; and 12J to 12F. Additionally, dashed lines connect 12A to 12E and 12D to 12I. The label 76A is placed near the connection between 12B and 12D, and near the connection between 12J and 12F. The label 70 is placed at the top right of the diagram.

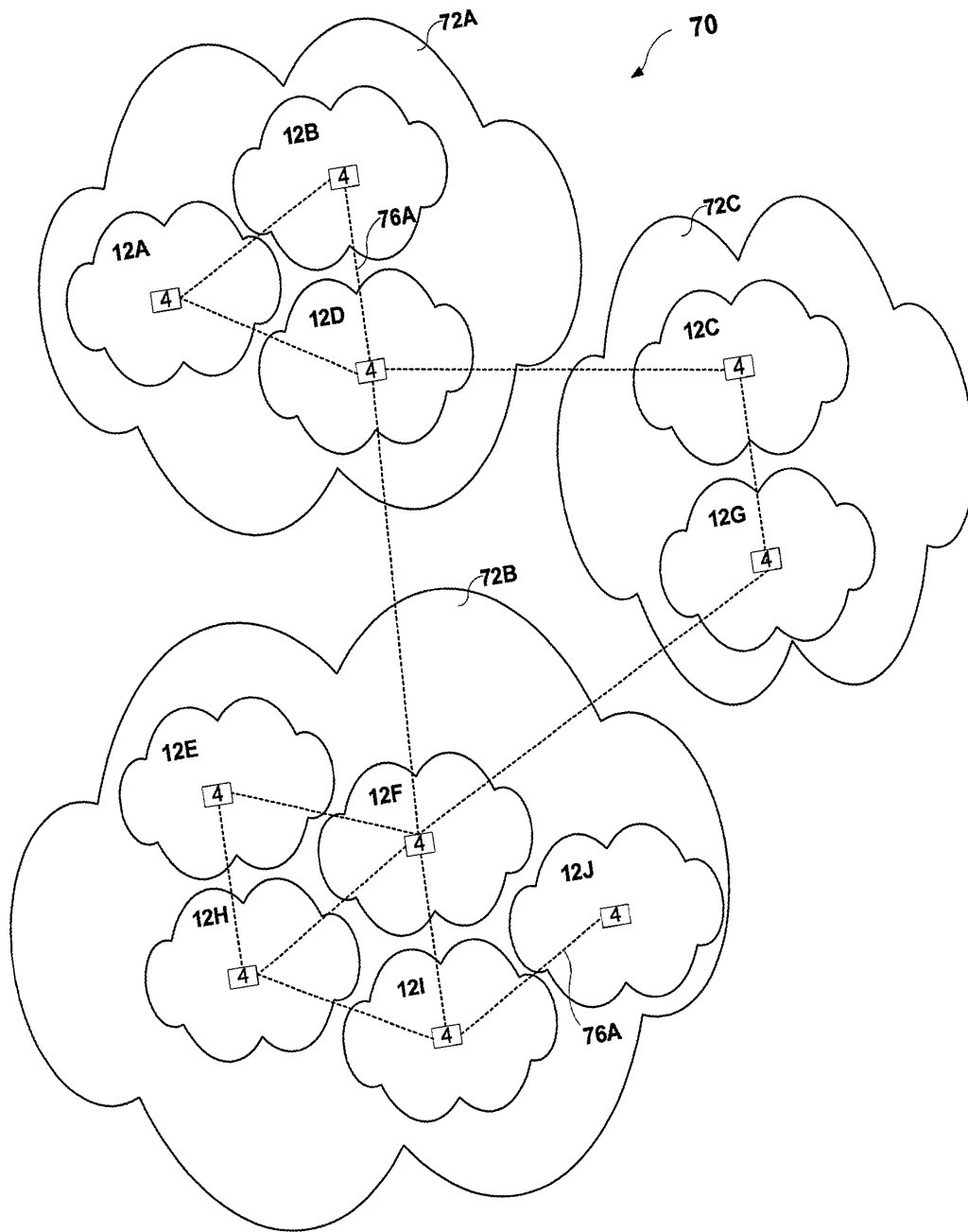


FIG. 7

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram of a network 80. The network 80 includes four cloud-like regions labeled 12A, 12B, 12C, and 12D. Region 12A contains a node 4A and two nodes 4. Region 12B contains one node 4. Region 12C contains four nodes 4. Region 12D contains four nodes 4. A dashed line 82A connects node 4A in 12A to a node 4 in 12B. Dashed lines also connect nodes 4 in 12A to nodes 4 in 12C. Dashed lines connect nodes 4 in 12C to nodes 4 in 12D. Dashed lines also connect nodes 4 in 12B to nodes 4 in 12D. The entire network is indicated by reference numeral 80.

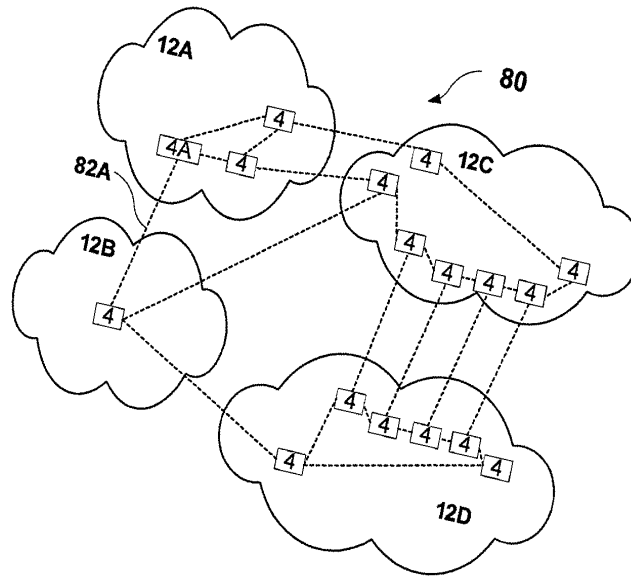


FIG. 8